

AD-A275 646



REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

2b. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE NA			1b. RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS NA		
4. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) NA			3. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF REPORT Distribution unlimited		
6a. NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION Univ. of Colorado Health Sciences Center		6b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable)	7a. NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION Office of Naval Research		
6c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) 4200 E. Ninth Ave Denver, CO 80262		7b. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) 800 N. Quincy St. Arlington, VA 22217-5000			
8a. NAME OF FUNDING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION Office of Naval Research		8b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable) ONR	9. PROCUREMENT INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER N00014-90-J-1591		
8c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) 800 N. Quincy St. Arlington, VA 22217-5000		10. SOURCE OF FUNDING NUMBERS PROGRAM ELEMENT NO. PROJECT NO. TASK NO. WORK UNIT ACCESSION NO.			
11. TITLE (Include Security Classification) (U) Synthetic Helizyme Enzymes					
12. PERSONAL AUTHOR(S) STEWART, John M.					
13a. TYPE OF REPORT		13b. TIME COVERED FROM 3/1/90 TO 2/28/93		14. DATE OF REPORT (Year, Month, Day) 94-02-01	
15. PAGE COUNT 2 + cover					
16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION					
17. COSATI CODES FIELD GROUP SUB-GROUP			18. SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number) Enzymes, synthetic Chymohelizyme Solid phase peptide synthesis		
19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number) Work on this contract consisted of further studies on design, synthesis and catalytic activities of our synthetic "chymohelizyme" (CHZ) molecules. CHZs consist of a bundle of four amphipathic α -helices joined covalently at their carboxy-terminus and bearing on their amino ends the amino acids that constitute the active site of chymotrypsin (ChTr). The first of these molecules, CHZ-1, demonstrated ChTr-like catalysis of hydrolysis of ChTr substrates. Design studies, using molecular graphics computer software, were directed toward improving the stability of the active site. Synthesis studies were directed toward improving the synthetic methods used. Extensive studies were carried out on improving solid phase peptide synthesis resins and protecting groups for this demanding synthesis. Studies of catalysis characterized the parameters of hydrolysis of nitrophenyl esters by CHZ-1 and several analogs. Rate of hydrolysis of acylamino acid esters catalyzed by chymohelizymes depends on the nature of the acyl group, the nature of the amino acid, and the nature of the ester group.					
20. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAME AS RPT. <input type="checkbox"/> DTIC USERS			21. ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified		
22a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL John M. Stewart			22b. TELEPHONE (Include Area Code) 303-270-7534		22c. OFFICE SYMBOL

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 Denver, Colorado, 80262
AWARD PERIOD 1 March 1990 - 29 February 1993
DATE OF REPORT 1 February 1994

Accession For	
NTIS CRA&I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DTIC TAB	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unannounced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Justification	
By	
Distribution /	
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DTIC QUALITY INSURANCE PROGRAM

We previously reported the design and synthesis of a peptide having catalytic properties related to those of chymotrypsin (ChTr). We called the synthetic peptide "Chymohelizyme-1" (CHZ-1). Chymohelizymes (CHZs) consist of a bundle of four amphipathic α -helices joined covalently at their carboxy-terminus and bearing on their amino ends the amino acids that constitute the active site of ChTr. The goals of this project were to study helizymes further and to design new examples.

During this contract period we conducted further studies on catalysis of ester hydrolysis by CHZ-1, carried out design studies intended to improve the configuration of the active site of CHZs and developed improved methods for synthesis of CHZ-1 and related molecules.

Studies of catalysis characterized the parameters of hydrolysis of nitrophenyl esters by CHZ-1 and several analogs. Rate of hydrolysis of acylamino acid esters catalyzed by chymohelizymes depends on the nature of the acyl group, the nature of the amino acid, and the nature of the ester group. Higher rates of hydrolysis were observed when both the amino acid and the acylating group are hydrophobic or aromatic. Thus, tyrosine derivatives are better substrates than alanine derivatives, and the aromatic-protected benzyloxycarbonyl tyrosine esters are better substrates than the aliphatic *t*-butyloxycarbonyl-protected tyrosine. The activated *p*-nitrophenyl esters of these amino acids were effective substrates, but the previously reported hydrolysis of stable ethyl esters and amides could not be confirmed.

Studies of the conformation of CHZ-1 showed that the molecule was not fully helical in solution. Acting on the hypothesis that this lack of full helix conformation was due to "fraying" of the ends of the chains (with concomitant disruption of the conformation of the active site), new analogs were designed, using the SYBYL molecular graphics program, to increase the stability of the region around the active site by adding more hydrophobic amino acid residues and protecting groups on the ends of the chains. At the time of the end of the project, no conclusive results had been obtained on the efficacy of this approach.

Studies on the chemistry of synthesis of CHZs were prompted by problems in obtaining commercial synthesis resins having the required properties of swelling in the synthesis solvents, and by problems associated with use of the new 3-nitro-2-pyridinesulfonyl (Npys) blocking group that we used to give the fourth level of selectively removable blocking groups essential for synthesis of the branched chain structure of CHZs. These studies led to great improvements; the results were published in two papers (reprints enclosed).

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

1. Design and synthesis of a peptide having chymotrypsin-like esterase activity. K.W. Hahn, W.A. Klis and J.M. Stewart. Science 248: 1544-1547, 1990. (work done in previous grant period)
2. Design and synthesis of 'Chymohelizyme-1,' a peptide having chymotrypsin-like catalytic activity. J.M. Stewart, K.W. Hahn and W.A. Klis, in "Peptides 1990," E. Giralt and D. Andreu, Eds. ESCOM, Leiden, The Netherlands, 1991, pp. 574-576.
3. Design and synthesis of a peptide having chymotrypsin-like catalytic activity. J.M. Stewart, K.W. Hahn, W.A. Klis, J.R. Cann and M. Corey, in "Frontiers in Bioprocessing II," P. Todd, S.K. Sikdar and M. Bier, Eds. American Chemical Soc., Washington, D.C., 1992, pp. 63-69.
4. Studies on chymohelizyme-1, a designed synthetic enzyme. J.M. Stewart, J.R. Cann, K.W. Hahn and W.A. Klis, in "Peptides," J.A. Smith and J.E. Rivier, Eds. ESCOM, Leiden, 1992, pp. 335-336.
5. Solid phase synthesis of a peptide designed to have enzymic activity. J.M. Stewart, J.R. Cann, M.J. Corey, K.W. Hahn and W.A. Klis, in "Solid Phase Synthesis," R. Epton, Ed., Intercept, Ltd., Andover, UK, 1992, pp. 23-27.
6. Effects of resin swelling and substitution on solid phase synthesis. K.C. Pugh, E.J. York and J.M. Stewart. Int. J. Peptide Protein Res. 40: 208-213, 1992.
7. Synthesis and stability of 3-nitro-2-pyridinesulfonyl chloride (Npys Cl). K.C. Pugh, L. Gera, and J.M. Stewart. Int. J. Peptide Protein Res. 42: 159-164, 1993.

SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL ON PROJECT

Supported by funds of this grant:

Michael J. Corey
Karl W. Hahn
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John R. Cann
Lajos Gera
Katherine Pugh
John M. Stewart

No degrees were awarded.

No inventions during this grant period.